THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MAR AN): (a) to (c) Transition from sickness to health is a gradual process and the time for turnaround cannot be stated in advance in exact terms. The strategies and reasons for turn around are enterprise specific and may not be applicable in all cases uniformly.

Wagon Orders by Railways

1288. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reduction in wagon orders by the Railways in 1997-98;

(b) if so, the actual reduction, PSU wise in wagon-manufacturing industry against anticipated orders; and

(c) the impact of the reduction in the wagon manufacturing units in public sector, and the action taken by Government to tide over the problem?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Government is aware of wagon orders by the Railways in 1997-98 where procurement of 5,000 Four Wheeler Units (FWUs) of 1997-98 has been clubbed with 1998-99 procurement.

(b) The actual wagon orders against anticipated orders PSU wise is given in the Statement *(see* below).

(c) Wagon orders below expected level will result in under-utilisation of installed capacities, which will increase cash losses of the PSUs. Ministry of Railways have been requested to sufficiently load the PSUs.

Statement

Name of Unit	Anticipated orders	Wagon orders released so far	Difference in workload
Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd.	1,590	980	610
Braithwaite & Co. Ltd. Burn Standard	1,300	725	575
Co. Ltd. Jessop & Co. Ltd.	2,850	347.5	2,502.5
	350	0	350
TOTAL:	6,090	2052.5	4,037.5

Separate Directorate for SSI Units

1289. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state-:

(a) whether there has been any recommendation for creation of a separate Directorate for SSI units in all the States for taking proper decisions for promotion of this sector;

(b) whether it is also proposed to hold a census of small scale industries in the country; and

(c) if so, by when the latest census will be held for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee in its 21st report recommended a separate Directorate or Ministry for the Small Scale Industry in the States. States have been requested to take necessary action.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The third Census of registered small scale industries in the country is proposed to be conducted during the year 1999-2001.

Public Sector reform programme

1290. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to embark on a comprehensive public sector reform programme;

(b) if so, the salient features and timeframe thereof;

(c) whether disinvestment is an integral component of the plan;

(d) if so, the unit-wise details thereof;

(e) whether there has been any progress in the matter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MAR AN): (a) to (f) The policy for public sector enterprises has already been stated in the Common Minimum Programme of the Government, which *inter-alia* includes 'disinvestment'. A Disinvestment Commission has been set up for advising the Government and on its recommendations, it has already decided to disinvest in three enterprises namely MTNL, CONCOR and GAIL in the current financial year. In addition, IOC will also be disinvested during this year as approved by the Government earlier. Government have also initiated measures to assist the selected PSEs in developing into globak giants and company specific actions have been initiated -for the reform and restructuring of other enterprises.

Patents on Neem-related products held by U.S. Corporations

1291. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during a 10 year period, from 1985 to 1995 there were 53 patents on Neem-related products and majority of these products were held by U.S. Corporations; and

(b) if so, what prevented Government to enact an exclusive Act for the protection of medicinal plants as also stringent conservation laws to combat the Intellec-tural Property Rights (IPR) regime and the mechanism of international trade?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MAR AN): (a) and (b) As per provisions of the Patents Act, 1970 drugs or medicines are not patentable but only process for manufacture of these substances is patentable in India and Patent Offices in India have been receiving applications for process patents for different products from neem which are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Patents Act, 1970.

आबिद हुसैन समिति की सिफारिश

1292. **श्री रामगोपाल यादव** :
श्री ईश दत्त यादव :

क्या उघोग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने लघु उघोगों के संबंध में आबिद हुसैन समिति की सिफारिशों को पूरी तरह से कार्यान्वित कर दिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो समिति की कौन-कौन सी सिफारिशों को कार्यान्वित किया गया हैं;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने आबिद हुसैन समिति की सिफारिशों को लागू करने के लिए किसी अन्य समिति का गठन किया हैं;